



Hamilton county Emergency services



EMERGENCYRESPONDER

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From the Public Information Officer....

On behalf of myself and the committee of Project Support, we would like to “Thank You” for your generous support and donations for those Hamilton County employees who are overseas fighting for our freedom. We continue to send special items and give them a “sense of support” from Hamilton County Government. We will be packing up boxes to send to these soldiers in the next few weeks . Some of these items include: candy, newspapers, camera, goodies/toys (for the soldiers to give to the children in Iraq) and lots of other neat things.



I had a friend of mine send me this powerful poem. I would like to share with you.

Thanks again for your generous support.
Amy Maxwell

I am a small and precious child,
my dad's been sent to fight...
The only place I'll see his face,
is in my dreams at night.
He will be gone too many days
For my young mind to keep
track.
I may be sad, but I am proud.
My daddy's got your back.

I am a caring mother.
My son may go to war...
My mind is filled with worries
that I have never known before
Everyday I try to keep
my thoughts from turning black.

I am a strong and loving wife,
with a husband soon to go.
There are times I'm terrified
in a way most never know.
I bite my lip, and force a smile
as I watch my husband pack...
My heart may break, but I am proud.
My husband's got your back...

I am a soldier, (marine, sailor, airman, guardsman)... Serving
Proudly, standing tall.

I fight for freedom, yours and mine by answering this call.
I do my job while knowing, the thanks it sometimes lacks.
Say a prayer that I'll come home. It's me who's got your back.

Comments or
Suggestions to the Editor,
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Email:
amym@exch.hamiltontn.gov

EMS News

A letter from Overseas...

Hello to all at HCEMS,

I am alive and well and that is, of course, the main thing. Life in Iraq is far from ideal, but we manage. I am living in a three-story building on the third floor, just above the Battalion Aid Station. It should be interesting being on the third floor when the heat gets here, somewhere like living in a chimney I would imagine. Day to day life is very similar to working Medic 9, busy, lots of paperwork, and a good percentage of the people you deal with don't speak English.

Tim and I are assigned to the same post, and we cross paths on a fairly regular basis. He is supporting a regimental unit at the time of this writing I have not seen him for about two weeks. I can't discuss in any further detail what his mission is, but I am sure he wishes you all well. I don't know that he has any email access to all.

Many thanks to all of you who have sent stuff. It's like Christmas every time the mail shows up. There are very few comforts of home here, but then there are those who don't even have what we have. I have not seen Dale at all, but he could be worlds away for all I know. We aren't really that far away from him, but it's not like we can just hop in the car and go for a Sunday drive.

My platoon has had many good contacts with the Iraqi people over here and you would all shake your heads to see the lack of health care. Most of these places have literally nothing. No beds, no water, no power. Simply taking then a box of Band-aids is more than they had to start with, and don't even think about anything amounting to EMS.

Currently, our days are filled with making preparations for the elections, and we are trying to plan for as many contingencies as we can think of. The thing is if something (God forbid) happens, we really have very limited resources to deal with. So, you plan, and you stage, and you spread as thin as you can, and pray that things will go smoothly.

Other than that, there is a severe shortage of fishing, which is a shame, because Iraq would be a perfect location for a lake don't you think? There would obviously be some minor logistical concerns that would have to be dealt with, but there is a lot of ground going to waste over here. Besides, if it were all under water, people might stop fighting over it. On the other hand, a large portion of lakeside property would belong to Iran and that's a whole different issue.

Best Wishes,

Andy

EMS News

Commissioner Hullander Recognizes EMS Personnel



Photo By: Lt. Jerry McDonald

Hamilton County Commissioner Bill Hullander presented an Award of Excellence to three employees of Hamilton County EMS on February 8, 2005. The award was presented for actions that were taken on May 23, 2004. Commissioner Hullander received a letter of praise from Mr. Michael E. Stevenson that credited Lt. David Thompson, Paramedic Titus Shelton and Paramedic Jeff Robinson (BoBo) for saving his life. Mr. Stevenson stated, " Their dedication and professional performance of their duties that day saved my life. I and my family can never thank them enough." The plaque received by all three team members

from Commissioner Hullander read, "with confidence shown on May 23, 2004 at a call that came into the 9-1-1 Office at 5:30 p.m. certainly indicates a strong desire to save the lives of the citizens of Hamilton County when such emergencies arrive. Whereas, such excellence deserves public acclaim and recognition. Therefore, be it resolved by the County of Hamilton, Tennessee that this Award of Excellence be conferred." After the plaques were presented, holding his grandson, Mr. Stevenson said, "without the actions of these men, I would not have known my grandson. I can never thank them enough and me and this little guy will spend a lot of time in the future fishing together." Paramedic Shelton said, " As a paid professional or volunteer, there is no amount of money that could be compared to the recognition and words of Thanks from someone whose life you touched."



Photo By: Amy Maxwell

HCEMS Commends Children

On Wednesday, February 16, 2005, Hamilton County E.M.S. made a surprise visit to Westview Elementary School to present a plaque to two children who saved their grandmother's life. Aaron Levy is 10 years old and his sister, Brie Levy, is 7 years old.

On February 6, 2005, Peggy Bradley, the grandmother, was home with her two grandchildren when she began to have medical problems, causing her to fall face down and sustain serious injuries. Ms. Bradley said she had just enough breath to tell her grandchildren to call 9-1-1. The children stayed on the phone with dispatchers and answered the questions for them to relay the information to HCEMS. When paramedic Wayne Dedmon and EMT-IV Paul Bobenhausen arrived on the scene the children were calm and were very helpful to

them. Hamilton County E.M.S. wanted to recognize these two children for their quick actions and their ability to remain calm in a stressful situation.

Fire Training/Haz-Mat News

Officers throughout Tennessee certify Meth-Lab Training

The week of January 23, 2005, Hamilton County Sheriff's Department and South/East Meth Lab Task Force welcomed officers to participate in an OSHA/Hazwoper Meth Lab class taught under the direction of Network Environmental Services (out of California). Mr. Craig Hammer, Special Agent for California DOJ Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement and Karlyn Kaley, Environmental Technology Communications, oversaw the class and educated fifty-six officers throughout the surrounding counties of Tennessee. The officers participated in a forty-hour class consisting of the following:

- The Makings of Methamphetamine
- Hazardous Materials
- Personal Protective Equipment for a Meth Lab
- Using Monitor Equipment
- Decon Process
- Evidence collection



Lt. Buddy Kamin explains the concept of breathing apparatus.

Tommy Farmer, Narcotic Supervisor with Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, is also a big supporter for this class. Lt. Farmer explained, "Since 2001, five hundred officers have been trained for this OSHA/Hazwoper class. The waiting list to take this class is unbelievable! But we are trying to hold as many classes a year as we can." These classes are "pricey". An OSHA/Hazwoper class and issued equipment costs around \$87,000. The class is funded by a Federal Grant through the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

According to recent report from the Drug Enforcement Agency, Tennessee is first in the nation in the leading number of meth-lab busts. The DEA's records show there was 1,253 meth labs discovered and cleaned up by authorities in 2004. That makes it the third year in a row Tennessee has garnered this dubious distinction.

In the past year and a half, the Tennessee Department of Children Services recently reported over 1,600 children have been removed from Tennessee homes because parents were cooking methamphetamine. Over 750 of these children are in state custody—a horrific and costly problem associated with this drug. Lt. Farmer explained with the pace of illegal lab discovery and confiscation increases, it's becoming very clear that our region has become a kind of "mecca" for meth production activity. Of all the counties throughout the state of Tennessee, Bradley County, McMinn County and Meigs and Hamilton County are the top four counties with confiscated meth labs.

The Department of Justice anticipates that methamphetamine use in Tennessee will soon overtake crack cocaine use. Methamphetamine labs in Tennessee account for seventy-five percent of the meth lab seizures in the Southeast.

Farmer said, when the officers complete training, they will receive \$2000.00 of equipment consisting of Gortex boots, Tyvek suit and boots; Nomex coat, jumpsuit, gloves and boots; digital camera, air purifier and filters; evidence kit and an equipment bag.



Left: Products confiscated from meth labs.

Right: Officers trying on Breathing Apparatus and learning how to use them.





Training news



Mark your Calendars!

INSERVICE AT MEDIC 3's

March 2005 Schedule

Make ups for WMD Awareness and Meth Lab Awareness

April 2005 Schedule

TBA

Hamilton County
Emergency Services
317 Oak Street,
Suite #302
Chattanooga, TN
37403

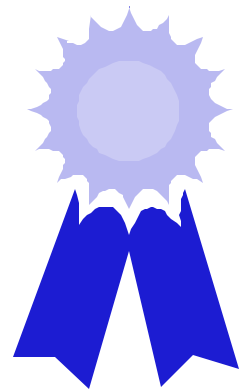
Phone: 423-209-6900
Fax: 423-209-6901

We're on the Web!
www.hamiltontn.gov

Call of the Month!

December 2004

Medical: Chest Pain Derek Ball & Michael Booth
Trauma: MVC Jeff Robinson & Titus Shelton



January 2005

Medical: CPR Charlie Daniel & Tim Hixson
Trauma: MVC Lt. David Thompson & Stacy Prater

IT'S SPRINGTIME!!!

It is also time
to spring
forward an
hour.



This should also be a
reminder to change your
batteries in your smoke
detectors!



DON'T FORGET!

Southeastern EMS
Symposium 2005 will be
at the Chattanooga
Choo-Choo on March 16-18, 2005.
Registration Fees: \$97.00 until
March 1, 2005 and \$117.00 at the
door. We have a great line up of
speakers, vendors, door prizes and
goody bags! For more information
call Capt. Poole at 209-6928 or
www.seemsda.org/conference



SAFETY NEWS : Spring is approaching us!

With warmer weather and longer days approaching, people are emerging from their winter coons to focus on long-neglected projects like spring cleaning, home repairs and yard work. Many are also lacing up their shoes for their first outdoor walk or jog of the season. These activities can be extremely beneficial, but they also involve a variety of health and safety hazards that can be avoided with the proper precautions. It's also a great time to replace your smoke detector batteries, make sure your fire extinguishers are placed in their proper locations around your home, and ensure you have a working flashlight and battery-powered radio for spring storms.

Outdoor Safety

**Ready for some outdoor exercise and adventure?
Here are a few pointers...**

- Winter's inactive muscles can take only so much strain. Don't over do it—build up slowly so you don't have strains that can put you out of commission for some time.
- Springtime is also severe weather time. If the skies look threatening, check to see if a storm watch or warning has been issued before you initiate outdoor activities.
- If you are already outside and thunderstorms threaten, go immediately into a building or enclosed vehicle. For tornadoes, go to the nearest safe structure, or the basement or interior first floor room of your home. If there is no time to follow these precautions, take cover in a ditch or depression in the ground.



Cat and Dog Bites

Pets can be a good source of companionship to a child. If you have a pet, let your child be actively involved in its care. Even young children can learn responsibilities for a pet and how to treat animals with love and respect. Almost all children love to handle and play with a puppy or a kitten. However, sometimes young children do not seem to be able to tell the difference between the cute little puppy you have at home, and the large stray dog that walks into your yard or the playground. This could mean trouble.

Safety statistics show in the United States alone, reports show that there were 157 deaths from 1988—2004 due to dog bites. Seventy percent of these deaths were children under the age of ten.

Dog bites are a common injury to children; quite often it is the family's dog or a dog that the child is familiar with that does the damage. Strange dogs have also bitten children when a child walked up to "pat" the dog. All too often when a child is attacked by a dog, it is in the facial area. Severe damage can be done in a split second. You must supervise small children around any dog or cat.

Do you have any Safety Concerns?

**Emergency Services Safety Committee
would like to hear about your
safety concerns.**

**Contact: Lt. Jerry McDonald, HCEMS
at 209-6932**

Emergency Services Safety Committee

**Lt. Jerry McDonald, Capt. Rip Rohen, Amy Maxwell,
Lt. David Thompson, Eric Ethridge, Jay Jones,
Wayne Cox, and Patrice Schermerhorn.**

